

He, too, had to make war on the pope at the beginning of his reign, and manipulate the heretic Elizabeth. But bigotry was with him a passion, heresy the most malignant of evils, and the extirpation of heresy throughout his dominions, and, as far as he could help it, in every land of Christendom, was the predominant striving of his life. "How can you thus look on and permit me to be burned?" asked a young noble heretic on the occasion of one of the *auto-da-fcs* with which he celebrated his arrival in Spain. "I would cany the wood," replied Philip grimly, "to burn my own son with, were he as wicked as you." On this point his expressed determination to the Grand Council of Mechlin left no room for dubiety. He enjoined all judges and magistrates to execute the edicts against heretics "with the utmost rigour, and without respect of persons whatsoever." Philip believed in the Inquisition as an instrument of religious and political despotism. He publicly swore on his return to Spain to support it with all his power, and with the royal will as its mainspring the Inquisition acquired a still more terrible energy in the crusade of coercion.

It remained to be seen whether, after the reign of Charles V., there was sufficient spirit left in the Netherlands to withstand the aggravation of the worst features of that reign by Philip II. There was dislike enough from the outset, and, happily for the progress of religious and political freedom, there was one man among the members of the regent's Council of State born to thwart and bring to naught the tyranny and bigotry of the autocrat In Margaret of Parma and her most intimate councillors—Anthony Perrenot, bishop of Arras, and presently to become Cardinal Granvelle; Viglius, president of the Council of Mechlin ; Berlaymont, president of the Council of Finance, who formed the Consulta, or Council within the Council of State —Philip found most loyal and subservient instruments of his schemes. They were all four devoted believers in autocracy ; they were all bigots of the purest water. Viglius was, in fact, the chief author of the atrocious edict of 1550; Granvelle had the chief hand in its renewal by Philip, and the fact that Loyola had been Margaret's confessor is a sufficient guarantee of her staunch orthodoxy. In William of Orange, on the other hand, nature and circumstance Had created the great antagonist of Philip's